

April 10, 2003

Pinchus M. Laufer  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Patent Technology Center 2100, Art Unit 2121  
United States Patent and Trademark Office

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Technology Center 2100

Re: U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/988,573  
Attorney Docket No. 862.1896 DI (00862.001896.1)

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/988,572  
Attorney Docket No. 862.1896 DII (00862.001896.2)

Dear Mr. Laufer:

As we discussed earlier this week, the Applicants in the above-identified applications are in receipt of an Office Action in Appln. No. 09/988,573 (the '573 case). However, the Office Action issued in the '573 case is directed to the claims that should be pending in Appln. No. 09/988,572 (the '572 case). Thus, it appears that the filings in the '573 and '572 cases have somehow been mixed up, with the papers filed by the Applicants in the '573 case being placed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office's file for the '572 case, and vice versa.

Applicants formally request your kind assistance in correcting this situation. As you requested, enclosed herewith to assist the Office are copies of all of the papers filed in both the '572 and '573 cases. I have also enclosed copies of the date-stamped postcards evidencing dates of receipt by the Office. For the record the papers should be associated with the Office's files as follows:

All of the papers bearing Attorney Docket No. 862.1896 DI or 00862.001896.1 should be associated with U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/988,573.

All of the papers bearing Attorney Docket No. 862.1896 DII or 00862.001896.2 should be associated with U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/988,572.

The Attorney Docket number appears at the upper left or right corners of the filings.

The Applicants would appreciate a communication from the Office that the files have been corrected. Also, if you have any questions or require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at (202) 530-1010. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Michael E. Kondoudis*

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Reg. No. 42,758